

SITUATION REPORT NO. 5
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: April 1, 1999 TIME: 1:30 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding, has resulted in overland and river flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: None reported.
3. DAMAGES: A severe early spring storm, characterized by freezing rain, snow and wind, is occurring from southwest to northeast in North Dakota. Forecasted amounts of snowfall range from six to 12 inches. The storm is expected to stay in the state for at least two days and could be followed by a similar event early next week, according to the National Weather Service. This storm is expected to impact the Sheyenne, Souris, Red River and Devils Lake Basins, but at this point, the magnitude of these impacts is unknown.

Today, the Red River at Grand Forks appears to be cresting near 44.5 feet based on current water levels. A second crest from additional precipitation from the storm is expected to occur next week.

In Grand Forks, public works staff reported a sinkhole in the center median of 32nd Avenue South east of I-29, where a 42-inch culvert is located.

In Traill County, the Goose River crested at 13.65 feet on March 30. The level of Goose River is 12.88 feet on April 1; flood stage is 6 feet. Bridges and Texas crossings in Traill County remain under water and have resulted in the closure of several township and county roads. In the Woodland Park area of Hillsboro, one dike surrounding a home is leaking and will be repaired.

In Walsh County, County Road 2 is now under water at several locations and is closed in Walshville and Pulaski Townships. County Road 15 is closed between I-29 and Warsaw. Two bridges in Oakwood Township were closed today. Water is backing up along the Park and Forest Rivers at their confluences with the Red River. Walshville Township is mostly covered by water east of I-29; water is starting to fill in on the west side of the interstate. Access to the area is limited to boat or air for several residents in Pulaski and Walshville Townships.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross has relocated two Grand Forks families and two families living in Turtle River Township to area hotels. The Red Cross served 100 meals on March 31 to volunteer sandbaggers in Grand Forks. To date, the Red Cross has served 212 meals.

The Grand Forks Police Department has assumed control of dike-walking operations, and the

United Way, Red Cross and the Salvation Army are assisting with volunteers.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Local, state and federal officials are monitoring the impacts of the severe spring storm as it moves through North Dakota.

In Grand Forks, city officials have advised residents to plug drains. The city Inspections Department has twice conducted door-to-door and telephone visits with property owners to discuss sandbagging efforts of flood-threatened properties. Sandbagging has begun on Elmwood and Olson Drives, but not on Boyd Drive. A haul road has been constructed at the Campbell borrow pit site. As a precautionary measure, a contractor is prepared to add two additional feet to the existing levee at Belmont Road. Officials are also reviewing plans for enhancing existing protection levels.

In Walsh County, the Emergency Operations Center initiated 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. operations and officials may extend operational hours as necessary. Rural residents living along the Red River continue to pump and maintain ring dikes.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: USACE, Red Cross, consulting engineers and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director